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CONTACT:

Kim Varner
202-842-3600, Ext. 254
kidscount@hagersharp.com

Whitney Neal
502-895-8167 ext. 121
wneal@kyyouth.org

News from the 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book
Kentucky's Kids See Both Improvements and Declines in Well-Being Measures

Our ability to progress as a state depends on the degree to which we can create opportunities for all children to succeed. Kentucky ranks 40th nationally in the *2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, a state-by-state study on the well-being of America's children. The *Data Book* reveals that Kentucky improved on four of the 10 measures affecting child well-being since 2000. Yet on three other measures, conditions worsened for Kentucky's kids. Conditions remained unchanged on one measure, and two other measures could not be compared to previous years due to a change in the survey used.

The 21st annual *Data Book* from the Annie E. Casey Foundation is complemented by the expanded KIDS COUNT Data Center, which contains hundreds of measures of child well-being and allows users to create maps and graphs of the data at the national, state, county, and city level. To access information for Kentucky go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/ky>.

Kentucky ranks in the bottom 10 nationally on three of 10 indicators.

Kentucky ranked 48th in the percentage of children whose parents lack secure employment and 43rd in both the percentage of low-birthweight babies and the child poverty rate.

One in three children lack secure parental employment.

In 2008, one-third of Kentucky's children—33 percent—lived in families where no parent had full-time, year-round employment. This rate is noticeably higher than the national rate of 27 percent on this measure.

Mortality-based measures show post-2000 improvement.

Since 2000, Kentucky has improved on the three mortality-based measures. The state's infant mortality rate fell 7 percent to 6.7 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2007. Similarly, the child death rate has dropped 4 percent to 22 deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14 in 2007. And at 74 deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19, Kentucky's 2007 teen death rate was 10 percent lower than it was in 2000.

Percent of low-birthweight babies continues to increase.

The share of low-birthweight babies in Kentucky was 9.3 percent in 2007, up 13 percent from its percentage in 2000. Kentucky's percent of low-birthweight babies is higher than the national rate of 8.2 percent.